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A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

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Father Darkleaf

BY
CALVIN ROBINSON

According to my notepad, Spring begins at 12:43 p.m., Sunday, March 20. In the Old Testament, Songs of Solomon, we read: "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." To many, Spring is the favorite season. In Locksley Hall, Lord Alfred Tennyson wrote: "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." Nature brings us a new deal; I saw a flash of yellow in my garden and hastened out to bring Brightleaf a bouquet of jonquils. Yellow and green are favorite spring colors, and it was very appropriate that when I went up to have my car inspected, the new No. 9 sticker on the windshield is green.

* * *

Appomattox usually has a blaze of forsythia in spring. I had three of'em but they became senile and are gone with the wind. Ah yes, and the other day I thought I saw green shoots where I am supposed to have some tulip bulbs. Rushed out to check and 'twas wild onions. Cannot win'em all.

* * *

Quoted: "there is no 'I' in Team." That means we must all work together to make our town and county the best. And I think we are doing just that.

* * *

Admit it or not, most of us are superstitious. Checked my calendar, and the next Friday the 13th is in May.

* * *

Has it really been that long! Received a nice certificate, which will frame, reading: "Be it known, that in recognition of fifty years of service as a devoted alumnus of the University (of Richmond) Calvin H. Robinson has been declared a member of the Frederick W. Boatwright Society of Alumni . . ."

At the close of the 1976 reporting period, there were 368,969 Methodists in Virginia. Do not have the statistics on other denominations, but they all do a great work and merit support.

* * *

Statistics can shock you sometimes. For example, a news release states that the U. S. Government has title to 25,496,320 acres of land in these United States and possessions.

* * *

Wear something Green Thursday, in honor of the Irish. It is St. Patrick's Day.

* * *

Baseball is taking over the sports pages and the cry of "batter up" will soon ring out. I urge our students to "go out for the team." I was a high school coach for two years and you know what I looked for? A left-handed pitcher! Will not attempt to explain it, but there is an advantage for "lefties." And "switch" hitters, such as the great Mickey Mantle.

* * *

History department: Ten Confederate states and eighteen Union states had troops at Appomattox in April, 1865.

* * *

Some lawnmowers are already busy. I usually put off long as can getting started with this seasonal occupation. Maybe I am just plain lazy. Good idea to have your mower checked, after a winter of idleness. In a couple of weeks will let you know if I got started! And I will wrap it up with this paragraph, for to start another would make it thirteen, and that is not a lucky number. I am lucky to have YOU as readers, and you are lucky to have a fine hometown newspaper, full of interesting news articles and pictures and advertisements from a great group of business people. Thanks for reading, and seeya next week.

Road Hearing Held Friday

Supervisors Seek Funds To Prepare Land Use Plan

The morning session of Friday's meeting of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors was devoted to the annual public secondary road hearing.

County residents made 19 requests for additions and improvements to county roads, officials from the State Department of Highways and Transportation said.

Residents of Stonewall District requested nine road improvements for 11.98 miles and two additions for 0.85 mile.

Southside District asked for one addition of one mile and four improvements on 2.6 miles of road.

Clover Hill District residents asked for one quarter mile addition and two improvements totaling 3.1 miles.

All requests will be viewed by a panel appointed by the supervisors and recommendations will be made later.

Appomattox County is seeking federal funds to prepare a comprehensive land use plan for the county in conjunction with the towns of Appomattox and Pamplin.

The supervisors voted Friday to seek $16,200 in federal funds to match a $8,200 contribution to pay the Central Virginia Planning District Commission for preparing the new comprehensive plan.

State law requires each locality to prepare a comprehensive plan by 1980. William W. Hibbert, III, planning commission executive director, told the supervisors it will take approximately two years to prepare the plan.

Hibbert said the plan will include planned land uses, a plan for economic development, housing, transportation, utilities and public facilities.

The CVPDC proposal calls for obtaining citizen input in developing the plan.

If the county receives the federal funds, the planning process will begin July of this year, Hibbert told the supervisors.

Prior to Hibbert's presentation, the supervisors were told that declining enrollment is projected to trim $29,000 for the total 1977-78 school budget.

However, the current proposal calls for $55,000 more in local funds according to Lloyd G. Walton, school superintendent.

Walton told the supervisors the schools are expecting 2,815 students next year as compared to 2,850 this year.

With the minimum expenditure, required under Virginia's Standards of Quality Education rising from $790 per student to $825, Walton told the supervisors the county will be able to institute another special education program.

Adding a learning disabilities program will enable the county to meet all the special education needs of its students, he said.

Citizens Concerned About Spiralling Cost of Electricity

A group of a little more than one hundred concerned Appomattox County citizens, disturbed by the alarmingly high electric bills met on Wednesday evening, March 9, at 7:30 at the Appomattox County Court House, hopefully to find answers to questions concerning spiralling energy costs.

With Sam Kerr, Appomattox attorney, acting as moderator, the meeting got underway. On hand to answer questions were W. L. Tucker, Jr., manager of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, Charlie Hooper of the Southside Electric Cooperative, Jim Wittine of the State Corporation Commission and Charlie Jones of the Virginia Association of Electric Cooperatives of Richmond.

Explaining that the cooperatives do not generate power, only purchase and distribute it, Tucker stated that six to eight per cent of the power of Central Virginia comes from Buggs Island and the remainder is obtained from VEPCO. In explaining the Wholesale Power Adjustment cost, Tucker stated "the high cost we have asked you, the customer, to pay for energy,w e have had to pay." In 1976 68.9 out of every dollar paid by the consumer to the cooperative went to purchase power.

In talking with the group, Hooper, who has been with Southside Electric Cooperative stated: "The reason we are so strongly promoting the Randolph Hydro Generating Complex is to try to stabilize the cost of electricity and not be dependent on VEPCO.

Wittine explained to the group that a letter had been sent from the State Corporation Commission stating that

cont'd on page 9

Attended In-Service Workshops

During the month of March, regional in-service workshops are being held across the state of Virginia to provide assistance and information to regular classroom teachers who work with hearing-impaired students.

Miss Sue Williamson and Miss Margaret Dickerson from Appomattox Elementary School and Mrs. Clara Staten from Appomattox Middle School represented Appomattox County at two of these workshops. Miss Williamson and Mrs. Staten attended the Lynchburg regional workshop on March 16. Miss Dickerson will act as a facilitator in small group discussions at the Danville regional workshop on March 18.

The State Department of Education is sponsoring these in-service sessions as a way of helping to meet the educational needs of hearing impaired students.

Named To Head Cancer Crusade

Mrs. Marge Mims and Mrs. Beck Hudson have again been named as Co-chairmen to head the 1977 American Cancer Crusade for Appomattox County, according to an announcement from Dr. C. G. O'Brien, President of the Appomattox County Chapter, American Cancer Society.

The 1977 Fair Share Goal for our county has been set at $4850.00. During the month of April, Cancer Control Month, volunteers throughout the county will be soliciting funds for the Cancer Crusade in an effort to help conquer cancer in your lifetime.

Mrs. Mims and Mrs. Hudson will head the residential campaign in Appomattox. Memorial Fund Chairman is Mrs. Mary Alma Hudson, Mrs. June Chenault will head the business solicitation and Rev. R. Q. Lawing will be chairman of church solicitation.

Mrs. Frances Paulette will be Chairman for Evergreen community, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dudley will be heading the campaign in Pamplin, Mrs. Christine Ranson and Mrs. Helen Inge will head the fund raising in the Rocks community and Mrs. Nannie Mae Davidson will head the crusade in Spout Spring.

April is Cancer Control Month...when a volunteer calls on you, give generously. We want to conquer cancer in YOUR lifetime!

Funding For Terry Dillard

(Editor's Note - The following is a reprint of letter sent to the Appomattox Public Health Department, Mrs. Brenda Richardson. We know any assistance given will be greatly appreciated.)

Terry Dillard is a 12-year old boy from Appomattox, Va., who was struck by an automobile on 10-9-76. Prior to the accident, Terry was a normal, happy and active child who lived with his mother, Ms. Shirley Dillard and his six brothers and sisters. The accident caused Terry to suffer spinal cord injury, leaving him paraplegic and separated from his family because of lengthy hospitalizations.

Terry's family is financially depressed.

Ms. Dillard complements AFDC and Medicaid benefits with the salary from her job as a cafeteria worker at Appomattox County High School. Medicaid insurance, however, will not cover the cost of necessary medical appliances such as a wheelchair and floatation pad. Terry is too young to be covered by Department of Vocational Rehabilitation funding. Therefore, an appeal to community organizations is the only viable means to secure needed items. The physical therapy department at the Children's Rehabilitation Center estimates the cost of Terry's wheelchair and pad at approximately $450.00.

Any assistance is raising all or part of this sum would be greatly appreciated by Terry, his family, and all who know and work with Terry.

Respectfully,
Charles T. Collins, MSW
Social Services
Children's Rehabilitation
Center - 804-924-5161

DATE SET FOR MISS APPOMATTOX PAGEANT PARADE

The 1977 Miss Appomattox Pageant parade this year will be held on Saturday, April 23rd at 11:00 a.m. Would you like to be in the parade? If so, call one of the following Woman's Club Parade Committee members: Betsy Carter, 352-7890; Ruby Ferguson, 352-7501; Becky Moore, 352-8590; or Martha Wilson, 352-5621.

Entries needed are floats, special vehicles, marching units and horseback riders.

All interested persons are encouraged to participate.

Council To Study Comprehensive plan

At the Monday night meeting of the Appomattox Town Council, the Appomattox County Planning Commission recommended to council that they have Central Virginia Planning District Commission assist with study for comprehensive land use plan. The same recommendation was made to the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors at their Friday meeting.

State law requires each locality to prepare a comprehensive plan by 1980 and it will take approximately two years to complete the plan.

Longwood College and VPI students will be assisting the town in a housing study to help the town in securing more needed federal funding. The study should be done in about two months.

In other business, the Board of Supervisors had appointed Bill Britton, Town Manager, as Emergency Service Coordinator and at the town council meeting, council approved the appointment.

Council received report from bid openings on the water storage tank and supply line from May-Hines Associates of Farmville. No action was taken at this meeting on the bids.

The Historic Appomattox Arts and Crafts Center

cont'd on page 9

HOLY WEEK - EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE SET

New Hope Baptist Church, Liberty Baptist Church, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Memorial United Methodist Church and Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church will hold Holy Week Services at the Presbyterian Church beginning at noon on April 4th and continuing through April 8th.

Services will begin at 12:10 p.m. each day and will last 20 minutes. A light lunch will be served by the ladies of the five churches following the services.

Through the cooperation of the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park personnel, Easter Sunrise Service will again be held at the park at 7 a.m. Pastors of all five churches will be participating in the Easter service. In case of inclement weather, services will be held at Memorial United Methodist Church.

The public is invited to attend any or all of these special services.

Pamplin School Principal To Attend National Convention

Blacksburg, March 10--Mrs. Barbara Waddell was one of eleven delegates elected to represent Virginia Elementary Principals to the forthcoming National Association of Elementary school Principals Annual Convention, April 18 - 22 in Clark County, Nevada. Mrs. Waddell, principal of Pamplin Elementary school, was among more than 200 elementary administrators and 44 educational tradesmen in attendance at the Spring Conference of the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals held at Virginia Beach, March 3 - 5. The theme of the conference was "Where Are We? In Curriculum, Staff Relations and the Law!"

Nationally known educational leaders speaking at the conference were Dr. John Manning, University of Minn.; Dr. Alan Cohen, author of the Random House Reading Programs and president of SAC Associates, Inc.; Dr. George E. Sullivan, Senior Vice-President and Publisher of Noble and Noble; Dr. Edward P. Keller, deputy Director of the National Association of Elementary School Principals: and Dr. Ida B. Brooks, and ... for the United States ... Assessment.

Small group sessions were led by Virginia Association of

cont'd on page 9

LITTLE LEAGUE MEETING SET FOR MARCH 22nd

A meeting of the Little League will be held on March 22, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. at Fidelity American Bank.

All coaches are asked to attend this meeting to draft players for the upcoming season.

CANCER SOCIETY TO MEET MARCH 21st

The Appomattox County Chapter, American Cancer Society will meet on Monday night, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fidelity American Bank - Hillcrest Branch.

Plans for the 1977 Cancer Crusade will be discussed at this meeting.

All board members are urged to attend.

At the School Board meeting on Wednesday, March 9, School Board members and teachers proudly review the self-evaluation report which has been compiled by all staff members of the Pamplin Elementary School. Discussing the materials in the picture left to right are Mrs. Sadie Brightwell, PES Fourth Grade Teacher, Mr. Robert Stewart, School Board Member, Dr. A. A. Fratrick, School Board Chairman, Mrs. Nancy Dickerson, PES Fifth Grade Teacher, and School Board members Mr. J. B. Drinkard, Jr. and Mrs. Ruth Webb.

This publication represents a program in which the schools have been involved during the past 18 months. The study includes an evaluation of the program of the school and plans to correct weaknesses that may be identified.

On March 28-31 teachers from other school divisions and members of the State Department of Education will observe the school program, study the self-evaluation report and make recommendations the committee believes will be helpful to the school system.

1977-78 Budget Discussed By School Board Members

Preliminary planning and discussion relative to the 1977-78 division budget received attention at the March 9th meeting of the Appomattox County School Board.

Information and tentative proposals considered were as follows: an anticipated decrease in enrollment for 1977-78 will result in a loss of approximately $29,000; program expansion is anticipated in one area for the next school session, this will be the initiation of a program for students with learning disabilities, local and state funds will be used to continue the hearing impaired program (during this school session the program was funded by a federal grant); with a decrease in enrollment it may be possible to reduce instructional personnell by one position and teacher aides by one position.

Considering the additional funds which will be available for the school system for the 1977-78 session as compared to the present session, funds for salary increases are limited. Tentative proposals which are included in this budget are as follows: a salary scale for teachers which ranges from $8100 to $12,500 through sixteen steps; a salary scale for teacher aides which begins at $2930 and advances to $3610 at the eighth step; a salary scale for secretarial personnel which begins at $4100 and advances to $6000 at the tenth step, this is for a person employed for ten months, secretaries who work eleven months would begin employment at a salary of $4510 and advance to $6600 at the tenth step; an increase of $1.00 per day per bus driver is proposed in the new budget and an increase of $0.10 per hour is proposed for custodial personnel.

Increases in salary for all other school employees will be in line with salaries received by teachers. The pay rate for substitutes for 1977-78 is recommended to be $17.00.

The increase in transportation for 1977-78 is $34,375. This increase is due to the purchase of four school buses at a cost of $47,000 and an increase in the daily pay for bus drivers.

Operational costs continue to sky rocket. The estimate of $110,000 for electrical services and $55,000 for feul oil is considered conservative. At this time it is difficult to make an accurate estimate of the cost in these areas.

Maintenance costs continue to rise. It is important that improvement to physical facilities are continued. Although considerable progress has taken place, there is still a need for many improvements in buildings and grounds.

The School Board is discussing with several companies group insurance coverage for school board employees. It appears that there will be limited funds available for assistance in this area. The School Board will continue to explore this area and to receive suggestions from employees.

It is anticipated that the 1977-78 budget for Appomattox County School System will be finalized and adopted by the School Board at the April meeting. After adoption by the School Board, the budget will be presented to the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors.

Announces Candidacy For Commissioner Of Revenue

Mrs. Betty C. Rhodenizer

Betty C. Rhodenizer of Appomattox has announced her candidacy for the Office of Commissioner of the revenue for Appomattox County.She is running as an Independent, subject to the November General election.

Since December 1975, she has worked for the General Reassessment program for the County. Some of her duties include assisting in the mapping and identification of all real property in Appomattox County, searching deeds to ascertain boundary lines, recording transfers of real estate and buildings, keeping records of new appraisal values and maintaining all records pertaining to the new reassessment of the county, to mention a few. Betty feels her work with the reassessment has given her a broad range of valuable experience which would be an asset to anyone undertaking the duties of Commissioner of the Revenue.

Betty is a native of Front Royal, Virginia where she graduated from Warren County High School and Roller Business College. She has had approximately eight years of business experience working with the public in various capacities. She is a former member of the Front Royal Civil Air Patrol and a former "Miss Warren County." Betty and her husband, Cliff, lived in Roanoke County for ten years and while residents there, joined efforts and designed the official county seal which Roanoke County now displays. Betty was active in Cave Spring Baptist Church in Roanoke where she taught Sunday School, was the Bible

cont'd on page 9

Crumbs For Thought

By Zeke

Kindness is to often reserved for animals. But kindness was defined by someone as the ability to love people more than they deserve. Too often we show kindness to those we love - - those who agree with our philosophy, political views or our theology. But kindness must be a love that makes us love people in spite of - not because of David's love for King Saul - even when he sought to kill him is an example.

. . . Blessed be ye of the Lord that ye have shewed this kindness unto your Lord, even unto Saul . . . II Samuel 2:5